

USA '76: THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS

A Bicentennial Exhibit
prepared by
The American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration

"The United States commemorates its first two hundred years as a nation in 1976. It has been a time crowded with struggle, dreams, change and fulfillment. The USA '76 exhibit, prepared by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, is a reminder that the United States has, even at so young an age, a unique history, a proud record of surmounting obstacles, a turbulent, fast-changing present and a future full of new challenges. The Bicentennial year is being celebrated by a society very different from the one that created the nation's basic documents, a society conscious of its problems, opportunities and responsibilities.

These are the major guidelines that the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration has set:

- That the Bicentennial be national in scope, seeking to involve every State, city and community.
- That the Bicentennial be a time for all Americans to review and reaffirm the basic principles on which this country was founded and to gain a new understanding of our heritage.
- That the Bicentennial be the occasion for looking ahead, for defining and dedicating ourselves to our common purposes, and for speeding the accomplishment of specific local projects responsive to our challenging national priorities.

- Above all, the goal of the Bicentennial is to forge a new national commitment—a new Spirit for '76—a spirit which vitalizes the ideals for which the Revolution was fought.

In this exhibit, we have tried to convey a sense of what the Bicentennial is about—through films and animation, through folk art and music and photographs. We will take you back to the day in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed. We will show you the wild land as it looked to the first explorers and settlers. We will show, too, how a new people adapted themselves to that wilderness environment, and the special way the United States developed as a result. We will describe how a continent, seemingly empty one moment, was filled from coast to coast the next. We will assess some of the immense changes that have taken place in two hundred years—and we will take a look, in a collection of photographic portraits, at who we are today.

Finally, we will tell you some of the things the Bicentennial is doing and has planned for 1976, as well as some of the ways in which you can help—for the success of the Bicentennial depends on you."



John W. Warner
Administrator
American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration

